

Criteria for Identifying and Advertising Fertilizer Method Limitations

Examples:

1. Determination of urea in the presence of urea reaction products (e.g. UF, MU, Triazone, etc.)
2. ISO method for Humic and Fulvic acids supplanting AOAC method
3. Lower recoveries of organic Sulfur by AOAC 980.02 gravimetric method
4. Fineness of grind impacting Soluble Potash recoveries in Polyhalite (0.18 mm vs. 0.5 mm)

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- Method limitations or concerns were brought to our attention over the past several months/years.
 - AOAC process can be rather slow and/or cost prohibitive to change.
 - Some companies feel they are being unfairly penalized due to method limitations.
 - Some of the data generated maybe false or misleading.
 - Some of these products are relatively new and/or where not included in the original method validation studies.
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Discussion at AAPFCO SA2018 in Ft. Lauderdale

After the meeting, James called for and motion/electronic vote to post method limitation information to the AAPFCO website as a reference to inform labs and fertilizer program administrators so this information could be considered/referenced in the selection of a method, selection of a referee lab and/or in the (re)evaluation of a penalty.

The motion did not move forward due to several stated concerns:

1. There is no defined or consistent process for how AAPFCO will handle this
 - a. Need a format or template
2. What specific information is required?
3. Need something more than a basic Powerpoint presentation
 - a. Options:
 - i. SLV or a Multi-Lab Validation Study?
 - ii. Ensure uniformity of results among more than just one lab
4. What is the review process and is it peer reviewed?
5. Cannot always assume higher is better or more correct (e.g. many ways to recover higher P in rock phosphate). Need some way to demonstrate that higher level is still available/soluble over growth cycle.
6. Prefer a "standard method" as its difficult to regulate with methods that are specific to individual products.
7. Declaration that the states are not obligated to implement, if the modification is not an "official" method.
8. Posting of information needs to be controlled. Avoid anyone posting that there is a problem with a method, when it could be a problem with a product, so need to go through review process and approval before posting.

What information do we need / What is required?

Data comparisons?

What is the review process?

What/where do we advertise or post?

Disclaimers or levels of obligation?

Other comments or suggestions?